

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4606

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MOOSE, RICHARD M.)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO CONAKRY OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY/AF MOOSE'S VISIT TO GUINEA AUGUST 2-4 WAS CHARACTERIZED BY FRANK, SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES WITH TOP GUINEAN GOVERNMENT/PARTY LEADERS -- INCLUDING MARATHON SESSION WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE. VISIT PROVIDES SOLID BASIS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUINEAN INTEREST IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH US WHICH WE BELIEVE HAS BECOME APPARENT IN RECENT MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

2. MOOSE ARRIVED IN CONAKRY AUGUST 2 FROM BAMAKO ABOARD C-12 AIRCRAFT PROVIDED BY DAO KINSHASA. MOOSE ACCOMPANIED BY THOMAS W.M. SMITH (DIRECTOR AF/W), WILFRED
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PETTY (USICA) AND BRYANT SALTER (AF). WARMLY RECEIVED, ESCORTED TO VIP LOUNGE BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, URBANISM AND HABITAT MOHAMED LAMINE TOURE AND BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOROU BALDE. M.L. TOURE REMAINED MOOSE'S ESCORT DURING HIS TIME HERE.

3. GUINEAN PRESIDENCY'S PROTOCOL PEOPLE MADE SOME SORT

OF RECORD FOR EFFICIENCY (IN WEST AFRICAN TERMS) AND FOR HOSPITALITY. AT GOG'S INSISTANCE, MOOSE PARTY PUT UP AT LUXURIOUS BELLE VUE GUEST QUARTERS NORMALLY RESERVED FOR STATE VISITORS. GOG PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION THROUGHOUT VISIT. GALA CULTURAL EVENING OF GUINEAN DANCING AND MUSIC ARRANGED ESPECIALLY IN MOOSE'S HONOR FIRST EVENING AT CHINESE-BUILT PALAIS DU PEUPLE; WELL ATTENDED BY GUINEANS UP TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

4. PLANNED AUGUST 3 SCHEDULE OF MINISTERIAL CALLS BY MOOSE SCRAPPED LATE ON FIRST DAY BY DIRECT ORDER OF PRESIDENT TOURE SO THAT PARTY MIGHT BE FLOWN TO KAMSAR TO TOUR PORT AND BAUXITE LOADING FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED FOR COMPAGNIE DES BAUXITES DE GUINEA (CBG) -- THE BIG SUCCESS STORY OF US INVESTMENT IN GUINEA AND TOURE'S PRIDE AND JOY. UNFORTUNATELY, TORRENTIAL RAINS AUGUST 3 GROUNDED ALL PLANES. RESCHEDULED MEETING WITH MINISTER FOR ECONOMY AND FINANCE ISMAEL TOURE (SEPTTEL, FEATURED IMPRESSIVE LOW-KEY PERFORMANCE BY THIS IMPORTANT FIGURE, PRESIDENT'S HALF-BROTHER, PROVING HIS SURE GRASP OF SUBSTANTIVE AREA AND OF DETAILS OF US COMMERCIAL INTEREST/ ACTIVITIES IN GUINEA. ISMAEL TOURE ESPLICITLY UNDERLINED FOR MOOSE GOG COMMITMENT TO WORK FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION WITH USG AND AMERICAN PRIVATE FIRMS.

5. MOOSE PARTY'S CALL ON MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS
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SAIFOULAYE DIALLO LARGELY COURTESY EVENT. DIALLO'S ENORMOUS GRATITUDE FOR HOSPITAL TREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED IN US DID COME THROUGH, HOWEVER.

6. FORMAL SESSION WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE AFTERNOON AUGUST 3 (MEMCON BEING CLEARED IN AF) AND TOP PARTY/ GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP LASTED FROM 1415 UNTIL 1915. (FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKO JOINED MEETING LATE, HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED MEETING.) SEEMINGLY UNTIRED BY THE FIVE-HOUR SESSION, GUINEAN PRESIDENT LED HIS AMERICAN GUESTS, PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI, ISMAEL TOURE AND FEW OTHERS INTO ANOTHER ROOM OF PALACE FOR INFORMAL, RELAXED DISCUSSION OVER LONG-POSTPONED "LUNCH". SEKOU TOURE'S VIEWS ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS (MEMCON BEING CLEARED IN AF) REMARKABLE FOR THEIR REALISM AND CANDOR. WE BELIEVE MARATHON SESSION WAS MOST VALUABLE FOR HAVING UNDERSCORED US CONCERNS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA. TOURE STOUTLY DEFENDED GOG RECORD AND TOOK ISSUE WITH US VIEW. THAT ASIDE, HOWEVER, TOURE STATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICIES TOWARD AFRICA AND HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE.

7. AMBASSADOR GAVE INFORMAL DINNER IN MOOSE'S HONOR SHORTLY AFTER END OF EKOUE TOURE'S" LUNCH". IN OUR VIEW, EVENT WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN THE DEGREE OF FRIENDLINESS SHOWN TOWARD MOOSE PARTY BY FIVE GOG MINISTERS WHO ATTENDED: ISMAEL TOURE, SENAINON BEHANZIN (INFORMATION AND IDEOLOGY), KEKOURA CAMARA (PUBLIC HEALTH), N'FALY SANGARE (PLANNING AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION) AND OMNI-PRESENT MOHAMED LAMINE TOURE. ALSO ATTENDING: MOROU BALDE FROM MFA.

8. MOOSE PARTY SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT AUGUST 4 BY M.L. TOURE AND MOROU BALDE. MINISTER OF EXCHANGES ABDOULAYE TOURE, WHO HAD ARRIVED ON SAME COMMERCIAL FLIGHT MOOSE CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS LEAVING ON, STOPPED BY VIP LOUNGE TO PAY RESPECTS. GUINEAN RADIO ("VOICE OF THE REVOLUTION") INTERVIEWED MOOSE IN FRENCH.

9. COMMENT: MOOSE VISIT WAS CLEAR SUCCESS ON ALL COUNTS. VERY FACT OF HIS COMING, FIRST HIGH-LEVEL USG VISITOR IN FIVE YEARS, WAS APPRECIATED BY GOG AS EVIDENCE OF US INTEREST AND INDICATION THAT NOTABLE GUINEAN EFFORTS OVER THE PAST YEAR TO NURTURE BETTER RELATIONS WITH US HAD HAD SOME EFFECT. MOOSE PRESSURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS LEFT NO DOUBT AS TO IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO THE SUBJECT. GUINEAN INTEREST IN OBTAINING GREATER US INVESTMENT WAS UNEQUIVOCAL. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONFIRMED TOURE'S INTEREST IN AND ACTIVITY TOWARD PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS, LEVEL OF FRANKNESS AND MUTUAL RESPECT SHOWN IN THE EXCHANGES SETS THE STAGE IN A MOST HELPFUL WAY FOR CLOSER CONSULTATION AND POSSIBLY COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES REGARDING SUCH PROBLEMS. IN VIEW MAGNETISM OF TOURE'S PERSONALITY AND THE INCIPIENT REVIVAL OF HIS INFLUENCE ON AFRICAN SCENE, SUCH RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM COULD BE USEFUL.

10. ACTION SUGGESTED: AS FOLLOW-UP TO THIS VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT, EMBASSY SUGGESTS DESIRABILITY OF:
A. KEEPING TOURE MORE CLOSELY INFORMED OF OUR VIEWS AND ACTIONS RE AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND PASSING HIM SPECIAL MESSAGES SOLICITING HIS OPINION AND, AS APPROPRIATE, SUPPORT. THIS DIALOGUE WOULD NOT ONLY ENLARGE PROSPECTS FOR USEFUL COORDINATION BUT WOULD PAY DIVIDENDS IN US-GUINEAN RELATIONS BY GIVING TOURE EVIDENCE OF OUR RESPECT FOR HIS VIEWS.
B. TRYING TO SCHEDULE A MEETING BETWEEN SEKOU TOURE AND PRESIDENT CARTER DURING THE FALL UNGA, PRESUMABLY
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IN WASHINGTON, WHICH TOURE HOPES TO VISIT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 16 YEARS.

C. GIVING THOUGHT TO ADDITIONAL HIGH-LEVEL USG VISITORS TO GUINEA. THE GOG HAS EXPRESSED ITS KEEN DESIRE FOR SUCH, AND WE HOPE IT WILL BE KEPT IN MIND WHEN APPROPRIATE POSSIBILITIES ARISE.

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